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May 10, 2019

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K. Jane Williams  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Sun Tran All-Electric Bus Project 5339(c) / FTA-2019-002-TPM-LowNo**

Dear Acting Administration Williams,

I am writing in support of the City of Tucson's application for Federal Transit Administration funds under the FY 2019 Low or No Emissions 5339(c) Grant program. The City of Tucson is seeking to purchase up to five 40' all-electric zero-emission buses, replacing the oldest biodiesel buses. They are committed to an alternative energy fleet and this initiative has strong support in the community which has embraced electric bus technology and wants to incorporate electric technology into the fleet.

The City of Tucson's public transportation provider Sun Tran operates a fleet of 382 vehicles, serving Tucson, Arizona and the surrounding metropolitan area for a total service area of 296 square miles. Unfortunately, 17 percent of the fleet buses are now beyond their useful life of 12 years. This grant will help assist in the replacement of aging diesel buses, which in turn will help control maintenance costs that grow exponentially as buses age.

The 2019 American Lung Association "State of the Air" gave Pima County a score of 'D' for air quality. As the population of Tucson grows the air quality will only diminish. This project will help improve the areas air quality and importantly will provided needed testing and development for electric bus technology in hot climates. It will also be uniquely beneficial as Tucson's climate requires high fuel consumption because transit vehicles must generally run cooling systems from early spring to late fall.

Sun Tran has proposed to partner with Gillig Corporation and Tucson Electric Power, who will be a partner in contributing the charging stations and infrastructure for the buses.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration under all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress